

I experienced some 'awe and shock' when Sinclair refused to allow Mr. Koppel to read the names of our brave young military men and women who served us and lost their lives for us in Iraq. I didn't know quite what to think. I am beginning to figure it out.

As an independent voter, I depend on our public media, who are earning only what most of us dream about, using FREE airtime, to make at least an effort to show the voting public, especially the undecided, BOTH SIDES of an issue. I am thoroughly amazed at what I understand Sinclair is about to do. If the station owners have personal opinions, they can speak to friends and make sure to vote for they what they believe is the right choice. But to use the power of the media to influence, indeed, to attempt to sway the public to their opinion, is a HUGE breach of not only the trust we put in our media, but the use of the FREE airwaves!!!

Former FCC chairman Hundt's statement describes my thoughts on this subject quite well:

"How can it be part of a broadcaster's public interest obligation to aspire to alter the perceptions of the audience about a presidential candidate by showing biased content that in no way reflects either breaking news or even-handed treatment of the issues? Why should a broadcaster keep its licenses if it behaves in this manner?" If Sinclair wants to give more exposure to "Stolen Honor," it can do so fairly by providing equal time for an examination of the same subject from an opposing perspective. The documentary "Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry," a positive account of Kerry's service in Vietnam and his anti-war activism upon his return, would seem to be an ideal candidate."

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.